



THE TOWER I

A Newspaper Written by SFAI International Students



By Juyoung Lee

There are lots of benefits to attending our school; meeting good faculty and friends from all different cultures, having class in small groups that gives more chances to communicate with others and seeing great views of San Francisco when having a lunch. Among them, one of the benefits of attending SFAI is that students can enter freely most of the art museums in San Francisco.

However, unfortunately, one of the most popular and well-known museums in San Francisco is planning to close for three years, which is SFMOMA. To give basic information from its website, "Founded in 1935, SFMOMA was the first museum on the West

Coast devoted to modern and contemporary art. From the outset, the museum has championed the most innovative and challenging art of its time, and they continue to exhibit and collect work by both modern masters and younger, less-established artists."

The construction will be started June 2, 2013 and then the museum will be reopened early 2016, which means three years later. Even though I am glad that they will reopen developed and brand-new SFMOMA, It is still sad news for people in San Francisco especially artists.

I wondered how Jeff Gunderson would think about this issue because he

is one who has lived in San Francisco for 25 years and has been librarian in our school. And also, he would have certain thoughts the art in San Francisco. He said, "It seems like they could keep part of open at a time. But I think it is a lot easier for them to close it all down and reopen again brand new and bigger museum. And make sure De Young, mission and other modern museums are still open..." During the construction, there will be some other exhibitions and events SFMOMA provides.

I think it should be listed on the website specifically such as



dates and kinds of the exhibition. Also, I think they should let students to have free passes for those alternative events too.

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Graffiti art in San Francisco

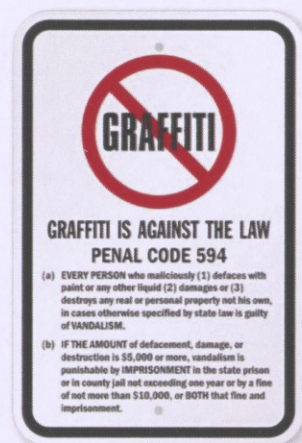
By April Kim

Graffiti is an art form. People discuss graffiti is art or not. Do you think that graffiti is an art or just illegal activity? In my first impression of was strong and powerful because I was able to see the some words and images that are symbol-

ized and also stylized. I believe that graffiti is a part of art because some people enjoy what they do on the wall, and graffiti arts do not harm people physically. I enjoy that even though it is illegal activity. I did not know that graffiti is illegal in San Francisco before I looked into the graffiti.

That is why I want to research and interview about graffiti artists because I want to know why graffiti treats to be an illegal. Graffiti artists have been doing graffiti in San Francisco over three decades. Some parts of graffiti arts are in the galleries or museums but most of graffiti arts

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*SFMOMA Continued
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Here is some information stated on the website:

Bay Area Museum Partnerships

1. Beyond Belief: 100 Years of the Spiritual in Modern Art : June 28–October 27, 2013 at the Contemporary Jewish Museum

2. Flesh and Metal: Body and Machine in Early 20th-Century Art : No-

vember 13, 2013–March 16, 2014 at Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University

Outdoor Commissions and Site-Specific



Installations

1. Mark di Suva

May 2013–May 2014 at Crissy Field

2. SECA Art Award presentations: September 14–November 17, 2013 at various locations

Graffiti continued from p. 1



are treated like doodles or vandalism and also illegal things. Many people prohibit the graffiti because they do not want graffiti on their private wall or public space because some people want to keep their wall to clean. Furthermore, some people believe that graffiti has some meaning that is related to gangs.

There are specific fines or laws for graffiti artist in San Francisco. The San Francisco police department's motto is "The Greatest Graffiti is No Graffiti." They say the graffiti destroys and damages the city walls. It

is treated as illegal. On the SFPD homepage, it says "Graffiti damage up to \$400 is punishable by up to 1 year in jail, \$10,000 fine or both, Graffiti damage of \$400.00 or more can be punished as a felony-

even if the vandal is a minor - by up to 3 years in state prison and a fine of up to \$50,000.00, Graffiti on a place of worship can be treated as a Felony punished by up to 3 years in State Prison or Graffiti with acid or caustic substances can be punished by up to 3 years in State Prison and \$50,000.00. The police treat the graffiti is serious problem in the city.

Graffiti artist "Chris" who lives in San Francisco says that graffiti is not an illegal activity, and he is not related to gang things at all. However, he admits that he did some graffiti on a

public wall without permission, and he knows that it is illegal that the government made even he believes that graffiti arts is not illegal. He also claims that there is no wall to paint the graffiti and create some art, so he just has to do it. He believes that some graffiti arts are about the gang symbol but not all of them. Graffiti artists just want to enjoy painting on the walls, and they think that is art. Chris reveals that he wants to explore and express his arts on the walls because he believes that the graffiti arts might make the city more beautiful and interesting, and he wants to share his own works with many viewers who just pass the street.

Moreover, there are several books about graffiti arts in the world and famous artists such as Berry McGee in San Francisco, so he confused about why most of graffiti arts are treated like doodles, vandalism or gang

activity. He looked for the walls that he was able to graffiti but it was hard to find the wall.

Graffiti artists should avoid private or public walls without permission because it is illegal, and this art might make people to angry because they think that someone damaged on their wall. However, graffiti is an art because people might enjoy and feel interested about what graffiti artists' work. I do not know the graffiti is good or not, but I believe that graffiti is parts of art for sure. For avoiding illegal activity, I think that government needs to provide some place for graffiti artists.

HOW TO EXHIBIT YOUR WORKS IN A GALLERY

By Shawn Wang

People always say "Why not put your artwork in a gallery?" to me. This question used to be a joke because galleries are places only for exhibiting masterpieces.



Therefore, putting my work in the galleries, in this case, seems to be very unapproachable. About 2 weeks ago, I went to a gallery named Shooting Gallery and had an interview with their director---Tova Lobatz. It is surprising to find out that exhibiting my artworks in a gallery is not a joke anymore. According to Tova, I, as an art student have to follow the certain steps or rules to have my works exhibited in a gallery. However, this is not a simple task and it takes time and effort.

In order to get ready for a exhibition, art student should know how galleries function daily first. Take Shooting Gallery as an example. They normally have 3 weeks for the show and 1 week for the installation. During the installation, they work on getting stories about the show and inquire into most people's responses to the artwork they are going to exhibit, and they also send the PDF of the catalogs to the collectors. There

are 4 staff working in the Shooting Gallery. They help to take down the old shows and put up new shows. Also, they help the artists to frame their pieces and make sure they get everything they need. "You always want to show respect to the collectors." Tova said. As the director of the Shooting Gallery, she has to deal with a lot of personalities. "We put a high value and respect on the artwork when we introduce them to the collectors." she added. To preserve and protect artworks, they usually wrap them up with plastic and put them in storage.

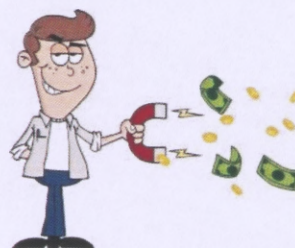


"Young artists are great! We are always willing to consider young artists, students or the self taught. If he or she has the motivation, talent, and dedication then it doesn't matter what age they are. As long as they are taking it seriously." Tova said. As young artists, we have lot of energy and passion. But in my opinion, I would rather show my work to the world to expose myself than sit to be waited or wait to be found by someone who really appreciates my work many years later. According to To-



va, putting artwork in a place where lots of people can see it is way better than handing in your artworks directly to the gallery because it is hard to get people's attention if you don't have any experience exhibiting your work in a public place before putting your work in a gallery. Also, exposing your work more to the public can also bring you fame and notability. Most of artworks exhibiting in a gallery are found in blogs. Places like hotels, fashion stores, cafes, salons and banks are also strongly suggested to show your artworks. However, places like bars and clubs are not suggested because the condition is not good for keeping your work.

Many artists sell their works for sizeable amount of money. But this is usually not possible for art students. Some students really had a hard time selling their artwork because they are labeling themselves too high. "In order for artists to make money off their work they need to be realistic and understand



that most are just beginning to expose their work to the public. It takes time and dedication to create a demand. Sometimes it doesn't happen, but today it is very possible for artists to make a considerable living off their work." said Tova. To put your artwork in a gallery, you must have a precise understanding of what the real value of your artwork is to draw people's attention.

Art galleries eye the potential and the future. Creating a series of continuous artwork will help you to make your content and theory more concrete and convincing. Also, finding other artists who have related themes with you will help create a group momentum.

Clearly, putting your artwork in a gallery is not a easy task. However, if you are serious about your



work and always expose yourself to the public to build up a better image for your background and experience, life will be much easier.

Adrian and His Tattoos

By Shawn Wang

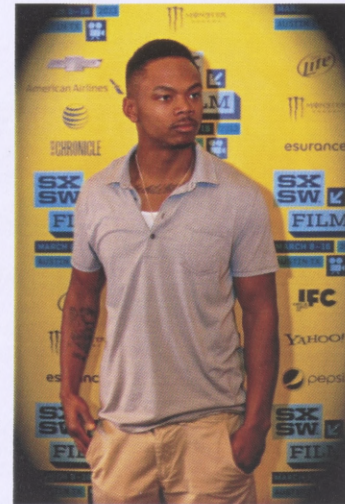
Tattoo art, as one of the most popular modern art forms, can be found everywhere among different cultures. Some people are passionate about getting a fabulous tattoo to show they are grown ups or mature enough; however, some people believe



that tattoos are very meaningful for memorizing someone they love or loved, and it can enhance their mental strength. Tattoos, like many forms of art, can help one to overcome fear and anger and give them motivation to keep going when they feel lost. Adrian had many tattoos all over his body and every tattoo has its own meaning. He told me that his tattoos gave him strength to overcome the difficulties, helped him find out the meaning of life and motivated him to achieve his goals. Generally speaking, his tattoos are all about his life.

Adrian is an African American man who was born and raised in Oakland in south California. When he was 14, he got his first tattoo "Rest in Peace" because his

grandmother just passed away. At that time, everything seemed to be hopeless. He and his family had to sleep on the floor because of the screaming street bullets from outside. One night, he and his friends went to a party. They separated because his friend Andrew decided to take another road to the party. When Adrian reached the place where the party was, he noticed that Andrew wasn't there. Then, he waited outside the party and talked to girls until he heard "Bang!" "Bang!" and saw the flashes in the sky. He went around the corner and found police and emergency people there. Then, he noticed that Andrew was lying on the ground dead. After he went to Andrew's funeral, he found out that Andrew was



his cousin. At that time, Adrian was 16.

16 is an age that a person starts to think about his future, so Adrian decided to serve in the U.S. marine corps after his best friend went to jail and his brother

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Museums of San Francisco

By Yui Zhao

San Francisco is a city of ethnic and cultural diversity, also there are museums. As an international art student, I think the city's museums can vividly reflect the city's history and culture. They are spread over the city and each one is a whole world of art.

SFMOMA

151 3rd St San Francisco, CA 94103

(415) 357-4000

Museums aren't for everyone, but I think that this museum can offer a really different on art depending on the show. SF MOMA is always a great place

to visit when we are in the area. I can spend a whole day here and usually do. Make sure you have a lot enough time to view all five floors if you want visit here. The first is mostly of paintings from artist, the second level is photography and the third level always changes; The fourth and fifth floors are



closed at the time. The museum has in its collection important works by Andy Warhol, Jackson Pollock, Richard Diebenkorn, Clyfford Still, Henri Matisse, Paul Klee, Marcel Duchamp and Ansel Adams, and so on. The permanent collection ranges from modern painting, photography, media arts and design to architecture. A friendly and knowledgeable docent recommends me: 1) Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's "Homogeaphies" and Tauba Auerbach's "50/50 floor": The room that houses both these structures is an amazing visual feast of black and white angles and shapes. It is made of 50% black tiles and 50% white tiles, which are randomly distributed over the floor in a QR code,

and 144 white fluorescent light tubes which are hung from 72 robotic fixtures and six tiny panoptic cam-erason the ceiling of the exhibition space, these detect the presence and position of people in the exhibition space. As they walk through, the system automatically rotates the light tubes very slowly to create light. If you love to reverie things like me, this is the kind of room where you could spend hours just trying to crack the meaning of everything you see. It's no wonder it is one of the first rooms when the visitors see. 2) Takashi Murakami (村上 隆)'s "Super

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Nova": All shroom jokes aside, this is a bright and colorful mural .Takashi Murakami is one of my favorite Japanese artists .In the point of view of his big fan, it is my first time to see his original work . In 2002, at the invitation of designer Marc Jacobs , Murakami began his collaboration with the fashion brand Louis Vuitton .Though he had previously collaborated with fashion designers such as Issey Miyake Men by Naoki Takizawa.

When you feel tired or finish the art tour ,you can go to the Blue Bottle Coffee Bar, It sets in the sculptures in SFMOMA's Rooftop Garden.They have an inventive menu of art-inspired cakes and desserts. The most special is the Mondrian Cake.The Mondrian Cake made by Caitlin Williams Freeman. The inspiration comes from the combination of Red, Yellow,

and Blue -- A prominent Dutch artist Piet Mondrian's painting. The cake was too cute to refuse. In addition to being an attractive dessert, it was made with a rich chocolate ganache but was not overly sweet.

By the way SFMOMA's gift shop of fers lots of cute, unique knick-knacks for the home (e.g. egg pillows and finger graters), as well as a robust collection of art books.

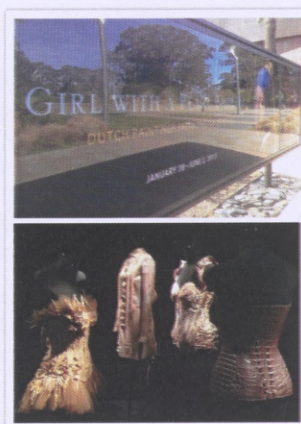
Special suggestion:First tuesdays of every month are free!

De Young

50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr
San Francisco, CA 94118
(415) 750-3600

It's in the Golden Gate Park close to the Academy of Sciences and unique building and a great .Galleries flow pretty well, and the permanent collection is really good.

Every memberships can bring a friend for free and get into the legion of honor as well. There have exhibits for the Cartier,



Balenciaga,Jean Paul Gaultier ,one which had tons of dresses and costumes he's designed,it was like a super amazing fashion show.I tried to take pictures to show my sisters who

also love fashion but the pictures just couldnt capture the details of the outfits.

Most recently I came here for Vermeer's Girl With The Pearl Earring which is popular work of art in Europe, it is called the Dutch Mona Lisa ,made by Johannes Vermeer.

Asian Art Museum

200 Larkin St San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 581-3500

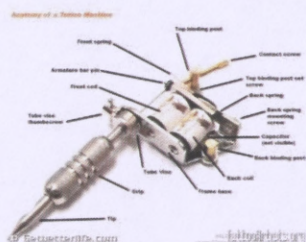
This is one of the worlds largest museums in the Asian art & culture. In the US, "Asian" generally means Japanese or Chinese,

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True artist's style -- Young, Wild & Free

By Yui Zhao

Chris Harrison was born in Los Angeles, California in 1990. He is the painting major at SFAI. His father is a tattooist and he has a tattoo shop in LA. He got his first tattoo on his arm from his father. It is an english letters in Gothic



script representing his family. His father thinks it's one of the typefaces that takes best to a curve. He wants to pass down it from one generation to another.

His childhood definitely did make a difference direction of him. The neighborhood was interesting and richly multi-cultural. He learned drawing in high school and realized that he wanted to be an artist from then on .When

he was 15, Graffiti was nothing new to major cities like LA, and he was interested in it. He created a 3 meter x 1.5 meter work, which is his debut, with his best friend Tom. After he was enrolled in university and began to contact real painting.



Recently one of his paintings full of expression and great feeling, and it was immediately bought by a gallery located at Fillmore street ,San francisco. That is something to be proud of especially for a college student. This painting depicts a big violet creepy bird digesting an orange elephant in drab browns and grays on a blue background. He used the chewed-up end of a popsicle stick as a brush, the

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Adrian Continued from p.4



had been set up and accused of drug dealing. He made a name list and tattooed it on his body to signify his family and friends who were killed during that time. In the first two years, he was trained in San Diego and bought his mother a house and married his high school sweetheart. Then, he was sent to Japan by the military and when he came back, he got into a car accident and was paralyzed from the neck down for 3 days. Luckily, the doctor also

found out there was a tumor in his back and action was taken immediately. After that, he had a better understanding of the meaning of life and tattooed "I'm still here." At that time, he was 21.

Shortly after he met a friend who was a director. Adrian was chosen to shoot a \$100,000 budget feature movie as a casting director and an associate producer. However, he didn't ask for any profit because he told the producer he loved shooting movies and this had always been a dream for him. However, the producer insisted on giving 5% of the total profit to him. After that, he lost his loyal car because someone wanted it and he refused to give it to him; therefore, that guy opened fire and grazed him in his face. Then, he got

divorced because his wife's family were racists and it was just too hard for him to be together anymore. At that time, he was 22.

Now, he is here----- SFAI, as a film major student to chase his dreams. Like everyone else in this school, Adrian also has a target. He wants to shoot a feature film based on the environments and people that he has been exposed to as a way to memorialize everyone he misses. By the way, his movie is going very well right now and he is going to attend a movie festival in March. Few days ago, he got another tattoo "God bless the child who got his own." I have known Adrian for several days now and I would say he is one of the nicest people I have ever met. I hope his dream will come true very soon. God bless him!



Museums Continued from p.5



maybe Korean. The Asian Art Museum does not make that mistake. From India, Turkey, Japan, Indonesia, Korea, China, Sumatra, Afghanistan to Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan, Cambodia, Burma, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Mongolia. You will see the cultures, languages, foods, design, reli-

gions, literature, images, sounds that make up all of Asia, and not only on one specific country or stereotypes of Asia.

I went to there to see the new exhibit "China's Terracotta Warriors The First Emperor's Legacy" started Feb 22-May 27, 2013. You can see bells, waterbirds, etc. Outside in the lobby is Chariots of War Gallery, the first emperor's empire building. Osher Gallery is the first emperor's underground army. This is the room you don't want to miss! When you go to the gift shop, you are able to bring a little piece of the exhibit home with you, they have traditional made Terracotta mini soldiers ready to go home and protect you in sizes from 5 inch-

es all the way to life size.

Cartoon Art Museum

655 Mission St San Francisco, CA 94105
(+1) 227-8666



If you love cartoons and/or comics, be sure to come here. The museum is small just about four big rooms, but this place always changes its exhibits. They have displays of all types of cartoons and comics, from Garfield to The Simpsons. This is a good place if you don't like spending the whole afternoon walking around. This museum is modern and can remind your childhood fantasies, even those that might have faded in memory.

stroke were intermittent but the effect was amazed. When I asked where the inspiration from, he said: "I smoke marijuana when I want to create, and usually I like to eat something when I finish that. One day after smoking I ate a popsicle and I had kind of a strong creative impulse, then I picked up one stick and began to paint, I used 3 hours to finish it without breaks however I did not feel tired. Marijuana can provide inspiration for me, I can feel a different way of thinking which gives me more room to touch the world. After I Smoke, I'd like to narrow my eyes involuntary, but it

make everything look different and easy to capture images, the sharps, structures, colors. I felt times being slowed and some moments seemed eternal. Everything is so funny that I want to paint them."

He used to smoke weed a lot, and he believes it not



only can decrease inhibitions and make him feel more relaxed and more impulsive about expressing thoughts and emotions, but also bring to the surface thoughts and feelings that even he didn't know. The important thing is if you aren't creative, marijuana won't turn you into a great artist. However, using it responsibly can help you get over your inhibitions and see the world in a new way. He dislikes surrealism; he believes that art is born of free association and dreams. When he starts a work, he has no idea where it may take him. He thinks the key of creating art is when a creative person



who really wants to do something, he enjoys the fun of the process of creating art, but not only do art just for wanting to create art.

By April Kim

Sam the Mystery Man

When I saw him in my drawing class, he was drawing very small squares on paper. I was interested in what he was doing, so I kept in eyes on him. I could not wait to talk to him. Therefore, I asked him to be an interviewee for my newsletter.

Sam is majoring in painting, but also he is interested in drawing. He has been painting since he was six years old because his mother is an artist who also paints like him. Sam's mother usually



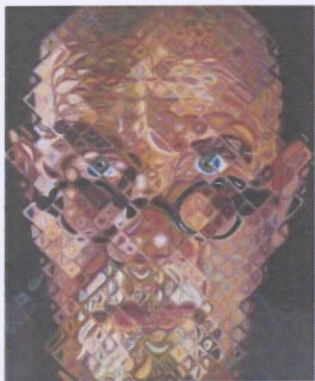
paints still lifes. He doesn't want to follow his mother's style or concept but he admits that his mother affects to him in some way because he trained how to draw when he was young by his mother. I think he might want to find his own way to paint.

Sam moved to San Francisco from Los Angeles, and he planned to go to the university near Los Angeles; however, he also wanted to go somewhere new, so he applied to some school to learn more knowledge and to travel a new city. He thought that SFAI is the best school for studying painting because many famous artists graduated this school. Also, he thought that San Francisco might be the best place for travel. Therefore, he decided to come to SFAI.

Sam's life in San Francisco is kind of interesting. He likes to watch people and listen to their talking in the café. He said that he overhears people's talking by pretending listens to the music with I-



pod. While he is overhearing, he is drawing their faces that he imagines in his sketchbook.



His favorite artist is Chuck Close, and he uses Chuck Close's painting skills into his painting. Chuck Close usually plays with the circles; also, he paints the human faces a lot. Like Chuck Close, Sam always paints the human faces that could be his family, friends, and his girlfriend. Therefore, he has a series of the faces. He wants to put his relationship with the people in his artwork. He believes that it is im-

portant thing to paint the human faces that have relationship with him because the relationship among people is the best reason for living.

Sometimes, he goes to the beach or the hill to paint the landscape, but this is not the painting that he is most interested in. He likes to play with the black paint and white paint in his artwork. He thinks that using only the black paint and white paint is more diffi-

cult than using a lot of colorful colors, so he wants to master those two colors first and then tries other colors. After he masters the black and white paints and the human faces, he wants to try more figurative art such as figure drawing or other arts. If he masters everything, he would want to collaborate with his mother.



By Juyoung Lee

Willfredo Raguro is originally from Philippines and came to the USA when he was 13 years old. He has been at SFAI only two weeks like me and it is the first time attending formal art school for him. He loves the environment that meeting interesting people and getting creative energy. Also, he thinks the faculties are really inspirational as far as making artwork.



He has started photography from 2005. He likes documenting stuff and lives. As far as actually stud-

ying it, he started 2 years ago when he was in community college. He took a few classes of a black and white and dark room practice in 2010. When he was in San Francisco, he photographed a couple marriages and gave them a print. It was life changing for him. As he loves travelling and has relationship with someone that he meets during the trips, it made him to study photography. He says the relationship he has with people really matters to him. When doing artwork, he usually gets inspiration from just walking down a street as he takes a lot of street photographs. He catches the emotions and gestures from people on street. Also he gets inspiration from other photographers too.

There are many favorite artists for him. For street and documentary photography, His favorite pho-

tographer is Henri Cartier Bresson. After school, he usually does two hours of walking and photographing on the street. When he goes back home, he watches movies and does homework as



usual. What motivates him is the fact that when he does Street photography, he sees humanity in people and what is good in them.

For him, there had not been any cultural differences while he lives in San Francisco. He sees the same in culture with life in San Francisco and Dallas: the relax way of living.

He really doesn't know whether art education is necessary as he has been exposed to two conflicting point of view on the topic. One is that there are photographers that studies sociology, semiotics, and psychology. The other side of the coin is that some photographers have degrees in painting, art history, and of course photography. He thinks that a well-rounded and educated artist is a better artist. In his previous school, he had usually learnt about a technical skill of photography. But in this school, he expects conceptual ideas, creative process and how to create something out of nothing.